

4.05 RAIL AND UTILITY ISSUES

Wisconsin and Southern Railroad (WSOR) crosses USH 51 in McFarland north of CTH MN, outside the study limits. There is one crossing of WSOR facilities on USH 51 in Stoughton, 0.2 miles east of Fifth Street, where two sets of tracks are protected by flashing lights but not gates, as shown in Figure 4.05-1. According to the WisDOT District 1 Railroad Coordinator, no changes to WSOR facilities are anticipated in Stoughton. However, a recent decision in McFarland from the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads stated in the “*Decision on Matter 9170-RX-152*” that the Village of McFarland proposed to establish a public crossing of Holscher Road with WSOR tracks when Holscher Road is extended to the south in 2004 as part of residential development. Holscher Road is approximately 1.3 miles east of USH 51. The railroad currently operates four to six through train movements per day at this location at a speed of 25 mph. Passenger trains may operate at 30 mph.

There are thirteen utility companies operating within the study area, based on information from the WisDOT District 1 Utility Coordinator. Six utility companies provide for communications, four provide electric and/or gas, one is a transmission utility, and two are local (McFarland for water/sewer and Stoughton for water/sewer and electric).

A few utilities are considering changes to their facilities. The American Transmission Company is considering replacement of their “bluebird” towers, as shown in Figure 4.05-2, with new steel towers. The City of Stoughton has submitted a Notice of Intent to the Public Service Commission to raise rates to help finance a new electric substation. The ANR pipeline is also considering facility improvements though the exact locations are not yet known.



Figure 4.05-1 Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Crossing in Stoughton



Figure 4.05-2 American Transmission Company Tower Along USH 51